

# The GAINS Center Addresses A Need

## Facts about Adults...

- The rate of current severe mental disorder for detainees entering jail is 6% for men and 12% for women
- The prevalence rate of major depressive episode among female detainees entering jail is over 10%, or 3 times the rate for males entering jail
- Among detainees with a severe mental disorder, 72% have a co-occurring substance use disorder

The criminal justice population is one of the fastest growing and most underserved groups in this country. At any given time, 500,000 individuals in the justice system have co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.

People with co-occurring disorders who come to the attention of the justice system have been poorly served by fragmented mental health and substance abuse services in the community. Without appropriate treatment, the individuals' symptoms may worsen, causing disruptive behavior that jeopardizes justice operations and the individuals' adjustment to the institution or community.

A growing body of research and program information can help localities treat and manage people with co-occurring disorders in jails, prisons and community corrections. *The GAINS Center gets the right kind of information into the right hands.*

The GAINS Center was created in 1995 to implement a comprehensive program of information dissemination, knowledge application and technical assistance strategies to promote organizational and systems change at national, state and local levels. Through work with national experts, federal agencies, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, consumers and family members, GAINS Center staff promotes effective solutions for immediate implementation.

In October 2000, the GAINS Center was re-funded for a three-year cycle by two centers of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) – the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The GAINS Center also works in partnership with the National Institute of Corrections, the Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The GAINS Center is operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc.

## Facts about Youth...

- At least 20% of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system experience a serious mental illness
- Of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system who experience a mental disorder, between 50 and 75% have a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Between 1989 and 1998, the number of delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts increased 44%.

# GAINS Works

The GAINS Center's primary focus is on expanding access to community-based services for adult and juvenile offenders with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders at all points of contact with the justice system.

The Center emphasizes the provision of consultation and technical assistance to help communities achieve integrated systems of mental health and substance abuse services for individuals in contact with the justice system.

## Focus

- *Serves as the locus* for the collection, dissemination and practical application of the best available information. *To order or download GAINS publications*, call 1-800-311-GAIN or visit [www.gainsctr.com/publications/](http://www.gainsctr.com/publications/)
- *Helps communities identify gaps in services and develop integrated approaches* to respond more effectively to people with co-occurring disorders in the justice system.
- *Provides targeted technical assistance* through the use of national and local experts who assist communities to implement interventions, such as uniform screening and assessment procedures, jail diversion programs and cross-training. *To request technical assistance*, call 1-800-311-GAIN or visit [www.gainsctr.com/tech\\_assist/](http://www.gainsctr.com/tech_assist/)
- *Convenes coalitions* of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, consumers and family members from mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice fields to define new directions and strategies.

# The GAINS Center

## Contact the GAINS Center

The GAINS Center  
Policy Research Associates  
345 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, New York 12054  
(800) 311-GAIN ♦ (518) 439-7612 (fax)  
E-mail: [gains@prainc.com](mailto:gains@prainc.com)

Website: [www.gainsctr.com](http://www.gainsctr.com)

## Management Staff

Henry J. Steadman, PhD  
*Director*

Joseph J. Cocozza, PhD  
*Co-Director*

Susan J. Davidson, MA  
*Assistant Director*

Michelle Naples, MA  
*Technical Assistance Coordinator*

The National GAINS Co-Occurring Disorders and Justice Center is a national center for the collection and dissemination of information about effective mental health and substance abuse services for people with co-occurring disorders who come in contact with the justice system. The GAINS Center is funded by two centers of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) – and works in partnership with these agencies as well as the National Institute of Corrections, the Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



Policy Research Associates,  
Inc.  
345 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

**G**athering information

**A**ssessing what works

**I**nterpreting the facts

**N**etworking with key stakeholders

**S**timulating change

## The National GAINS Center

a national locus for  
information on effective  
mental health and  
substance abuse services  
for people with co-occurring  
disorders in contact  
with the justice system

